

first time rejects these claims as anticipated by Bove et al. At page 4 of Office Action, the Examiner states that new grounds for rejection have been introduced. Thus, this final rejection is improper and Applicants respectfully request that it be withdrawn and change to a non-final office action or that the rejection of claims 33, 34, 36, 37, 42, 43, 47-49 and 52 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Bove be withdrawn.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of any changes to the claims and the remarks herein. Please contact the undersigned to conduct a telephone interview in accordance with MPEP 713.01 to resolve any remaining requirements and/or issues prior to sending another Office Action. Relevant portions of MPEP 713.01 are included on the signature page of this amendment.

Claims 29 and 35 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not in the specification. Applicants' respectfully disagree and respectfully request withdrawal thereof. Claim 35 depends from claim 29. The examiner states that the following recitation in claim 29 is not supported with specification. "the flexible contact elements have an original shape, the flexible contact elements deflect away from the original shape when said flexible contacts contact the electronic components, the flexible contact elements are withdrawn from contacting the electronic component." This is merely the scientific definitive of "flex". At page 14, 4 lines from bottom to -6 lines from bottom teaches "the wires to flex under pressure so that the probe ends in contact with the pad will move to wipe over the pad so that good electrical contact is made therewith." Attached herewith are pages 1217-1218 of Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia Sixth Edition (1983) which has an article on Flexure. The figure on page 1217 shows a flat unloaded beam and a flexed loaded beam. When the load is taken off the beam the beam substantially returns to it unloaded configuration. Thus the specification supports the recitation in claims 29 and 35.

Claims 42-52 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully disagree and request withdrawal thereof. In regard to the Examiner's

comments with last paragraph of page 2 of the Office Action applicants provide a non-limiting representative example of what the referred to claim language corresponds to in the drawings and specification, by so doing the applicants are not limiting the claims to these ^{or} similar examples.

7, As to claim 42 a "socket" is shown in Fig. 2 and at page 8, line 3, as element [?]6. As to claim 45 there is no recitation "is interrelated and associated with the first substrate". As to claim 49 the recitation "means within said first of the first substrate" is supported by the specification as follows. The specification at page 7, lines 14-17 state that "Space transformer 54 is a multilevel metal/ceramic substrate, a multilevel metal/polymer substrate or a printed circuit board which are typically used as packaging substrate for integrated circuit chips" which a person of skill in the art knows contain means therein "for connecting terminals to contacts". The "language plurality of first substrates", for example is shown as 36 in Fig. 4 of US Patent 5,371,654, incorporated by reference at page 8, lines 18-20 of the specification. As to claim 51 the second substrate corresponds to 36 of Fig. 4 of US Patent 5,371,651 and the first substrate corresponds to 8 of Fig. 4 thereof. The Examiner states "said second substrate is not recited precisely" claims 33, 34, 36, 37, 42 and 43 for which claim 52 depends recite "first" and second substrate.

Claims 30-51 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Bove et al. (US 4,078,599). Applicants respectfully disagree and request withdrawal thereof. Claims 30-51 recite a flexible conductor or similar recitation for which there is no teaching or suggestion in Bove et al. The Examiner refers to element 19 of Bove as being a flexible element. Applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons given in the prior response repeated below, to which the Examiner did not respond. Bove et al. provides no description of "probes 19" other than to call "19" a probe. At Col. 5, lines 10-21, Bove et al. states "[t]he assembly of probes maybe similar to, or patterned after the probe assembly disclosed ...in... Bove US Patent No. 3,806,801.", which is entitled "Probe Contactor Having Buckling Beam Probes". The American Heritage Dictionary

Second College Edition, defines buckle to mean "to cause to bend, warp or crumple". US Patent 5,367,254 shows a picture of a buckled beam. See the copy of this patent enclosed with the prior response which shows a buckled beam 5 in the figure thereof. In contradistinction, all of applicants' claims recite flexible conductor or similar recitation. Bove et al. '599 teaches away from all of applicants' claims since it teaches "buckling beams which warp or crumple". A crumpled beam cannot flex within the scientific meaning of the term described above. Fig. 8 of US Patent 3,806,801 shows graphically the relationship of force and deflection of an axially loaded probe as taught in Bove et al. '599. The buckling of this probe is described at Col. 1, lines 54-64 and Col. 6, lines 10-35 of US 3,806,801, in particular, Col. 6, lines 27-30 teaches, "The wire 16 of the probe 15 is designed in accordance with formula ... where F is an axial load on the end of the wire 16 which will cause buckling of the wire 16." It is thus clear that Bove et al US Patent 4,038,599 does not teach or suggest a flexing conductor, but in fact teaches away since it appears to teach a buckled conductor.

In view of the changes to the claims and the remarks herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the above-identified application. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application further, or if additional information would be required, the undersigned will cooperate fully to assist in the prosecution of this application.

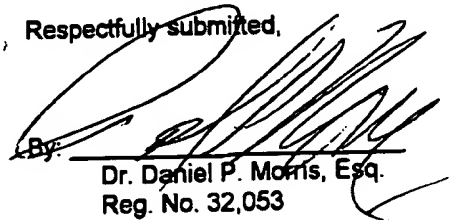
Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper and any previous paper to deposit account 09-0468.

If the above-identified Examiner's Action is a final Action, and if the above-identified application will be abandoned without further action by applicants, applicants file a Notice of Appeal to the Board of Appeals and Interferences appealing the final rejection of the claims in the above-identified Examiner's Action. Please charge deposit account 09-0468 any fee necessary to enter such Notice of Appeal.

In the event that this amendment does not result in allowance of all such claims, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience

Where the response to a first complete action includes a request for an interview or a telephone consultation to be initiated by the examiner, ... the examiner, as soon as he or she has considered the effect of the response, should grant such request if it appears that the interview or consultation would result in expediting the case to a final action.

Respectfully submitted,

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